

CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. A lightweight pattern validation system comprising:
  - a validation processor configured with a prototype interface for receiving both a field validation pattern and also form based input to be validated against said field validation pattern; and,
  - a validation script library packaging said validation process
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a library reference to said script library disposed within markup defining a form having at least one form based input field programmed for validation using said validation processor; and,
  - a function call to said validation processor further disposed in said markup, said function call having a configuration for passing a reference to a value in said at least one form based input field for validation in said validation processor.
3. The system of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of additional function calls to said validation processor disposed in said markup, each additional one of said functional calls having a configuration for passing a reference to a value in a corresponding form based input field for validation in said validation processor.
4. The system of claim 2, further comprising a validation shell function encapsulating said function call.

5. The system of claim 3, further comprising a validation shell function encapsulating said function call.
6. A pattern validation method comprising the steps of:
  - retrieving a value for a form based input field from a form defined in markup rendered in a content browser;
  - passing said retrieved value along with a validation pattern for said form based input field to a validation process disposed within a lightweight validation library coupled to said rendered markup; and,
  - validating said retrieved value according to said validation pattern in said content browser.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of repeating said retrieving, passing and validating steps for at least one additional value for at least one additional form based input field disposed in said markup rendered in said content browser.
8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of performing said retrieving, passing, and validating steps in a validation shell function disposed in said markup rendered in said content browser.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of performing said retrieving, passing, validating and repeating steps in a validation shell function disposed in said markup rendered in said content browser.

10. A pattern validation method comprising the steps of:

defining a pattern validation routine to validate form based input provided through a prototype interface to said routine based upon a validation pattern also provided through said prototype interface;

packaging said pattern validation routine into a lightweight validation script library;

referencing said lightweight validation script library in markup disposed within a content server configured to distribute said markup to requesting clients;

defining at least one form based input field in said markup and further defining a validation pattern for each of said at least one form based input fields; and,

for each form based input field and defined validation pattern, disposing a function call to said pattern validation routine in said lightweight script library.

11. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for pattern validation, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

retrieving a value for a form based input field from a form defined in markup rendered in a content browser;

passing said retrieved value along with a validation pattern for said form based input field to a validation process disposed within a lightweight validation library coupled to said rendered markup; and,

validating said retrieved value according to said validation pattern in said content browser.

12. The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the step of repeating said retrieving, passing and validating steps for at least one additional value for at least one additional form based input field disposed in said markup rendered in said content browser.

13. The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising the step of performing said retrieving, passing, and validating steps in a validation shell function disposed in said markup rendered in said content browser.

14. The machine readable storage of claim 12, further comprising the step of performing said retrieving, passing, validating and repeating steps in a validation shell function disposed in said markup rendered in said content browser.